



Pedro Nava

Assembly Member

REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35



www.asm.ca.gov/nava

JULY 2009

Santa Barbara 15th District PTA Honors Assemblymember Pedro Nava

15th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President Norene Nims, Past President Paula Perotte and Safety Chair Eva Inbar presented Assemblymember Nava with the "Very Special Person Award" for his work on behalf of children and youth.

Assemblymember Nava has worked closely with the PTA on legislation to improve the safety and health of children. He authored AB 321, the Safer School Zone Act, which sets 15 mph limit on roads within 500 feet of a school and to 25 mph on roads from 500 to 1000 feet of a school which was chaptered last year. Assemblymember Nava has also introduced bills to ensure that cyclists are safer on the road and that school lunch programs have California grown fresh produce in them.

"I am honored to be recognized by the 15th District PTA for my legislative efforts to keep children safe and healthy," said Assemblymember Nava. "The PTA has been a strong partner and I appreciate and respect their advocacy towards a better California for our youth."



Eva Inbar (left) and Paula Perotte (right) present Assemblymember Nava with the 15th District PTA "Very Special Person Award."

The California State PTA developed the Honorary Service Award Program to allow its constituent organizations to recognize the service and dedication of both individuals and organizations for their work on behalf of children and youth. A monetary contribution has been made to the Honorary Service Award Program in honor of Assemblymember Nava and those funds will be used by the California State PTA to fund its Scholarship and Grant Program. Those scholarships and grants are meant to better equip PTA volunteers to advocate for children and for units and councils to provide much needed services to children and their families. To learn more about the work of the local PTA organization, visit <http://www.sbceo.org/~fifteenthdistrictpta/>

Assemblymember Nava Hosts Business Resource Expo in Ventura

Assemblymember Pedro Nava hosted his fourth annual Ventura County Business Resource EXPO on July 17 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Ventura. The EXPO was co-sponsored by the California Small Business Association, the Ventura Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation, the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce, the City of Ventura and many others. More than two hundred people attended the event representing every segment of the business community.

The EXPO focused on bringing resources to the business community regarding how to do business with federal, state and local agencies. Additionally, many public and private organizations were on hand to provide information and resources to businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

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Assemblymember Nava said, "The EXPO brings together many different organizations and agencies from both the public and private sectors to Ventura County so that partnerships can be created and local businesses can take advantage of the myriad of opportunities available to them to grow and prosper."

Every year, millions of dollars in opportunities are awarded to qualified businesses in our state. However, as with anything, Assemblymember Nava realizes that many businesses do not have the information or the time to benefit from these opportunities, and that is what makes the EXPO so important.

Assemblymember Nava looks forward to working with the sponsors and partners for an even better EXPO next year. If you would like more information regarding the expo or on any other business related matter please contact the office at (805) 483-9808.

Assemblymember Nava Celebrates Independence Day with Local Animal Rescue Groups



Volunteers from the Santa Barbara Humane Society walk in the 4th of July Parade.

At the 47th Annual 4th of July Parade in Santa Barbara presented by the Spirit of '76 Foundation, Assemblymember Nava was joined by volunteers and dogs from K-9 PALS and the Santa Barbara Humane Society.

"I was proud to walk with these great rescue organizations to promote pet adoption. Both organizations were instrumental in animal safety during the recent Jesusita Fire evacuation, when they housed hundreds of pets of evacuees, including my own," said Assemblymember Nava. Nava has authored numerous animal cruelty prevention bills to make sure all of our pets are safe and healthy, and is the proud parent of two shelter dogs, Arnold and Ashley.

The mission of K-9 Placement and Assistance League, Inc. (K-9 PALS) is to promote adoptions, provide humane care, act as advocate for the dogs of the Santa Barbara County Animal Shelter, and to strive to eliminate the euthanasia of shelter dogs for reasons other than serious health or behavior problems. Their volunteers provide nearly 10,000 hours of service annually at the shelter and in the community, which is equivalent to almost 5 full time employees. For more information on how to adopt a dog, or to volunteer, visit www.k9pals.org

The Santa Barbara Humane Society is a local, non-profit charitable organization that has served the South Coast area of Santa Barbara County continuously since 1887. They provide pet adoptions and pet boarding services, a spay/neuter clinic, and humane education and investigation departments. To learn more about the Santa Barbara Humane Society and their great work, visit www.sbhumanesociety.org

This year in the Assembly, Assemblymember Nava has authored a package of bills focusing on animal cruelty prevention: AB 241, AB 242, and AB 243. Assembly Bill 241, cracks down on puppy mills in California. Assembly Bill 242 increases the penalties associated with spectatorship at a dogfighting exhibition. Assembly Bill 243 makes it mandatory for a judge to prohibit a person convicted of specified animal-related crimes from having any contact with animals for a specific period of time.



K-9 PALS rescue cutie Janie dazzles the parade audience with her "Adopt Me" vest.

One of California's Worst Oil Polluters in Trouble Again



Courtesy of Santa Barbara County Fire Department

The Central Coast Water Board has referred Greka Oil & Gas to the California Attorney General for civil prosecution. Assemblymember Pedro Nava issued the following statement about the pending action:

"I applaud the Board for taking this action," said Mr. Nava "Greka has been fined repeatedly and is one of the worst polluters in California. Let's be grateful the State of California has taken this action. They must be held accountable and forced to clean-up their act."

The Water Board acted because of "Greka's long history of illicit discharges of waste throughout the entire tenure of its operations on the Central Coast and because of its consistent failure to take the necessary actions to prevent those discharges. Greka has been fined more than \$2.6 million for more than 500,000 gallons of hazardous materials spilled in Santa Barbara County since 2003. In 2008 Greka spilled more than 157,667 gallons of contaminated water and oil.

Partly as a result of Santa Barbara County's experience with Greka, Nava passed legislation, AB 1960, last year to set up a comprehensive oil spill prevention program. The new law gives increased authority to the Department of Conservation to ensure that oil companies operate responsibly to prevent situations such as Greka from happening. The Department of Conservation is currently drafting regulations to implement Mr. Nava's spill prevention program.

This year, Nava authored AB 305 to allow county district attorneys to seek jail time for polluters who make false and misleading reports on oil spills into state waters. AB 305 was approved this week by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

Greka Energy is a multi-national corporation located in Santa Barbara County who has had a series of catastrophic on-shore oil spills where more than 500,000 gallons of crude and processed water have been spilled during the last 8 years and almost 300,000 during the past several months.

State Workers Assist People in Need in These Tough Economic Times

The State of California, like many other states in the country, is facing a terrible cash crunch. The Governor is focusing on public employees, imposing 3 furlough days and asking for a 5% pay cut on top of the time off without pay to save general fund money. But you have to ask, why he is forcing workers to take time off even if they are paid with federal dollars, not state money? That's what he is doing to Employment Development Department (EDD) employees. It just doesn't make sense.

Over 99% of the EDD operations are paid for with federal dollars. California is already a "donor" state, meaning we don't get back from Washington what we send there. Their time off doesn't add any money to the general fund.

In May 2009, California unemployment reached an all time high, 11.5%. The men and women of the State of California Employment Development Department know first hand the hardship when someone loses their job. More men than women are unemployed. This is especially painful to a family because women make about 78% of what men do.

If your job is gone and you want to get back to work, you will probably go to the EDD. They can help you apply for Unemployment Insurance benefits so you can make your house payment, feed your family and pay your doctor bills. You can register with CalJOBS to automate your job search. As an unemployed worker you may qualify for training benefits so you can enter a new field. There is more assistance available. EDD and its dedicated men and women are here for you.

Here are the stories of two people who work for us at EDD.



Cathie Jimenez

Cathie is a graduate from Cal State Northridge with a BA in Sociology. She started with EDD in 1979 and is now the Trade Adjustment Act Specialist. She has been the Employment Advisory Council Coordinator, working with Ventura County employers to meet their goals. She has been a Rapid Response Specialist, working with businesses that have contracted their work overseas, seeking to place displaced workers. Cathie has lived in Ventura County for 42 years, is married and the proud parent of three children, ages 25, 19 and 18.

Cathie explained she takes special pride in being able to work with all different kinds of people, and that she feels gratified to be able to help others reach their goals, especially when they are feeling overwhelmed by a job loss.

Blanca Hernandez

Blanca has worked with EDD for 34 years. She started as an Office Assistant II in the UI Division in Oxnard and spent 17 years helping the unemployed obtain their benefits and place them in jobs. She later transferred to Job Service, now known as Workforce Services. She has worked as a crew leader, training other workers in Job Service skills. She has coordinated with the Department of Labor to assist people with their health and retirement benefits earned at the last employer. She gets particular satisfaction assisting farmworkers, encouraging them to sign up for educational programs so they can change careers. Some programs are available through government programs, others through adult school. Blanca moved to Oxnard when she was 11 years old, has three children. Two of her children have Masters Degrees and the third is attending Cal Lutheran.



As a single parent, Blanca had a deep understanding of the challenges families face in these difficult economic times. She enjoys helping people; finding answers to people's questions and seeing them do well. She motivates others by telling them that they have to obtain the education to move them to the next level, often telling them, "Do it for your kids."

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